

# issues

## Message from the State Veterinarian

### • What is the value of status?

The word status means different things to different people.

To some, status means an expensive car, a designer watch or a big house.

For others, status is a corner office or a membership at a country club.

For those of us in regulatory veterinary medicine, status means open markets, the absence of testing and disease-free herds. "Free" is the best status of all.

For many years, Indiana's livestock industry has enjoyed Free status for several diseases that have plagued various sectors for decades and drained dollars from the pockets of producers seeking open borders for interstate and international trade.

Indiana has been free of bovine brucellosis since 1992, bovine tuberculosis since 1984, pseudorabies since 2004 and classical swine fever since 1978. This is due in large part to proactive producers and all those involved in the animal health industry who help maintain current vaccinations and use proper production methods and bio-security.

### • How valuable is status?

Ask cattle producers in the states of New Mexico and California who recently lost their Free status because several herds tested positive for bovine tuberculosis. The New Mexico delegation stated in a report, "The downgrade of New Mexico's status is estimated to cost our producers more than \$4 million per year." That total is a combination of costs including decreased trade and imposed testing requirements.

Yet another consequence exists: even if the infected area includes only two neighboring farms, the entire state is placed under dropped-status regulation.

To alleviate the problems caused, regulators are now allowing some states to gain "split-state" status. This status allows only the affected portion of the state to be placed under regulation and the remaining, unaffected portion can continue trade and practices. New Mexico is one state to receive split-status for bovine tuberculosis recently. The affected farms and an area surrounding them will remain with Modified-Accredited-Advanced status, while the remaining parts of the state have returned to Free status. Also, Minnesota is currently awaiting split-status for bovine tuberculosis. The northwestern portion of the state will be held at Modified-Accredited status, while the remaining parts of the state will work towards Free status.

### • What can Indiana do?

Regular testing and monitoring of animal herds is important especially for herd additions or animals that travel for exhibition or breeding. Producers and practitioners must be diligent in watching for unusual clinical signs that may indicate diseases such as pseudorabies, CWD or tuberculosis—all of which have been identified in animals in neighboring states within the last 12 months. "Free" status isn't a guarantee; nor can eradication ever be considered permanent.

Animal health starts on the farm with good production practices and regular veterinary services. Let's continue to keep Indiana disease free, and make Indiana a cornerstone of quality animal health in the United States.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
Indiana State Veterinarian

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State Veterinarian

## BOAH Board Actions

**DURING THEIR** regular July 10 meeting, Board members:

- Adopted the changes to the cervid health program.
- Adopted the changes to update the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO).
- Heard the first reading of a rule to add grading and certification of meat and meat products. A public hearing will be held at their next regular meeting, Oct. 2.
- Discussed Indiana's role, and options, in dead animal disposal. More information is being collected; including other states' positions.

## Companion Animal

**WORLD RABIES** day is planned for Sept. 28. Several veterinary clinics around the state are taking advantage of the awareness and holding low-cost or no-cost rabies vaccines and other services. This is one way for clinics to work against this preventable disease.

**INDIANA WAS** involved in a canine brucellosis traceback from Michigan this summer. The Indiana dog owner has since ceased all breeding activities and has depopulated his kennel.

## Premise ID

**THE SUMMER** showed an increase in premises registered. The registration requirement continues for 4-Hers and others exhibiting livestock.

**CURRENT PREMISES** registered are as follows: avian: 5125; bovine: 22,900; camelid: 459; caprine: 6796; equine: 6269; cervids: 596; fish: 145; ovine: 5257; and porcine: 10,228, for a total of 34,972 sites.

## Equine

**LATE SUMMER** and early fall bring more than crisp, cool weather to the equine industry. Mosquito-borne viruses, such as eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile become more prominent during these times. Extra caution should be used to stay aware of these diseases in horses. Veterinarians are encouraged to consult with horse owners about the need for proper vaccination and insect control.

**APPROXIMATELY 20** horses have been confirmed positive for equine piroplasmiasis in Florida. This disease is of great concern to Indiana because many horses are transferred between Florida and Indiana. Ticks, that transfer the disease, can live for several years continually passing on the illness. Horse owners should be alert to any unusual pests on their animals or unexplained clinical signs.

## Avian

**BOAH CONTINUES** to prepare for the upcoming avian flu/pandemic flu exercise this November. Staff members are reviewing the proper techniques for handling a high-path avian influenza outbreak in backyard flocks. Although the event is two days long, BOAH's portion only covers the first day.

**LOW PATHOGENIC** avian influenza was found in Payette County, Idaho. Trace backs have been linked to a pheasant pen located at a game bird breeding facility in the county. No major mortality was reported among the game birds, but a quarantine has been placed and the premise was ordered to be disinfected.

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## Scrapie

**INDIANA CONTINUES** efforts to eradicate scrapie from Indiana flocks. To date, three positive flocks have been identified in Indiana for 2008, with no major issues.

## Cattle/Ruminants

**AS OF** September 18, an interim USDA ruling officially lowered California from accredited-free to modified accredited advanced status for bovine tuberculosis. The drop was the result of California having two infected cattle herds since November 2007.

**NEW MEXICO** lost its accredited-free tuberculosis status in August. This is the second time in 5 years that New Mexico has had its bovine TB status downgraded. Since the downgrade New Mexico has been fighting to gain split-status within the state to allow trade to continue unhindered in areas far from the positive herds.

**USDA HAS** announced a new proposed rule regarding handling of downer cattle. The proposal would initiate a complete ban on the slaughter of all cattle that become non-ambulatory after passing ante-mortem inspection. The rule would require all cattle that become disabled anytime before slaughter, even after inspection, be condemned and disposed of outside the food chain.

## Meat & Poultry

**THIS YEAR** the Meat and Poultry (M&P) division at BOAH is celebrating its 40th anniversary after being organized in the state of Indiana. The BOAH booth at the Indiana State Fair highlighted the M&P department by showing advancements in food safety over the years.

**USDA** Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) reviewed the M&P Division during the month of June. A follow-up is occurring during the last week of September.

**M&P STAFF** have been meeting with beef industry members to discuss plans to provide USDA grading at state-inspected plants. With passage of the final BOAH rule, the division hopes to begin grading sometime in 2009.

## ASERT

**BOAH PARTICIPATED** in the annual Public Safety Day at the Indiana State Fair, sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. A display showcasing disaster preparedness and a miniature version of a flood was available for the public to view and learn. Several ASERT veterinarians were on hand during the event to speak with the public.

## Dairy

**THE BOAH** Dairy Division has mailed a copy of the guidelines for proper labeling and storage of antibiotics on dairy farms to all large animal practitioners. These guidelines were issued by the Food and Drug Administration Milk Safety Branch as a Memoranda of Information (M-I). The purpose of M-I-06-5 is to update previously issued guidance of Item 15r of the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance addressing drug labeling, use and storage requirements on dairy farms. In the recent past, several Grade A farms have been debited because of improperly labeled and illegal drugs. The mailing should help clarify information regarding these issues. Those who have questions should contact Terry Philibeck at 317/227-0300.

## Aquaculture

**THE ROUND** goby tested positive for viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV) in late May. The news comes as a surprise since the round goby was not known to be a carrier of the disease. The fish were found washed up on the shores of the southern basin of Lake Michigan. Since the lake was currently

infected with VHSV, no action was required from USDA APHIS, but this does add another species to the list of those that can carry the disease.

## Animal Issues in Disaster

**AT THE** end of July, several BOAH staff members traveled to Argos, IN to instruct a group of citizens on Animal Issues in Disaster. Members from the northern Indiana community, and surrounding towns, came to learn how they can help their communities during an animal disaster situation. After the day-long event participants left prepared to go home and build a plan unique to their resources.

**IF YOU** or someone you know would like to host a course please contact Dr. Sandra Norman at 317/227-0323 for more information.

## Swine

**BOAH HAS** had several requests to utilize the Interstate Movement of Swine Within a Production System program for the state of Indiana. The purpose of the program is to allow producers or production companies to move hogs interstate, or between their farms, without individual animal ID and without a CVI for each shipment. For a summary of the requirements for approval, contact Dr. Melissa Justice at 317/439-4888 or [mjustice@boah.in.gov](mailto:mjustice@boah.in.gov).

## Johne's

**THE VOLUNTARY** Johne's Certification Program for Indiana has received money to assist herds in the program. Johne's-certified veterinarians may receive \$150 per herd to off-set the producer's cost for testing, or to do a Risk Assessment and management Plan (RAMP). Veterinarians must submit a new veterinary services contract to participate. For more information, contact Dr. Bruce Lamb, Johne's Director, at 574/529-0910 or [blamb@boah.in.gov](mailto:blamb@boah.in.gov).

## Cervids

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2008** marked the beginning of several changes to Indiana's chronic wasting disease (CWD) program rules. Cervid producers are now required to have all dead deer older than one year of age sampled for CWD. Sampling may now be done by a trained veterinarian. Practitioners who would like to be trained for CWD sample collection, call BOAH at 317/227-0300 and request training from a BOAH field veterinarian.

**INDIANA'S DEPARTMENT** of Natural Resources (DNR) will be collecting CWD samples from hunter-harvested deer and road kills this fall as part of ongoing surveillance statewide. DNR expects to sample 800 deer.

**MICHIGAN CERVIDS** are at risk for a deadly ruminant disease that have been discovered recently. A confined deer on a farm in Kent County, on the state's west side of the Lower Peninsula, was confirmed positive for CWD. Currently, the entire state has been placed under quarantine. The close proximity of these confirmed cases could put Indiana's cervid herds in danger.

**SEVERAL HOOSIER** cervid herds, as well as free-ranging deer, have tested positive for epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). Cases, while clustered in a handful of regions, have been found throughout Indiana. After sizeable herd losses last year, many owners opted to vaccinate against EHD this season. However, the vaccine does not appear to be providing total protection.